



Photo: Stockmans Bridge, Dandenong

# Isaacs Newsletter



# Mark Dreyfus QC MP

*Welcome to the Greater Dandenong edition of my Isaacs Newsletter. It has been a busy time in our local community and here are some of the things that have been happening.*

## Investments in local Schools

## Schools

### Dandenong South Primary School

The Building the Education Revolution (BER) program continues to support jobs and deliver high quality facilities to schools in Isaacs. Dandenong South Primary School's new multi-purpose hall has transformed the school, catering for indoor sports, drama and music.



*Mark Dreyfus MP inspected the new building with Principal Leonie Fitzgerald*

### Chandler Park Primary School

Every year I present leadership certificates to student leaders in our local schools. I think it is important to encourage our children to take on leadership positions in their schools and local communities. Recently I celebrated leadership with students at Chandler Park Primary.



### Harmony Day - St Anthony's Primary School

Congratulations to the students, parents and staff at St Anthony's Primary School for celebrating and embracing Harmony Day. There are 42 nationalities represented at St. Anthony's, which was reflected by students proudly wearing traditional clothes to celebrate cultural diversity. Students also planted a ceremonial tree in the Harmony Garden.



# *Celebrating Isaacs Life*

## **Happy 100th Birthday Noble Park Primary School**

As many of you would remember, two years ago we celebrated the 100th birthday of the Noble Park Township.

On Saturday 7 May this year, Noble Park celebrated another 100th birthday, but this time it was **Noble Park Primary School's** turn.

Noble Park Primary School is an icon in our community and it was a pleasure to join so many local residents and hear different generations talk about what this school means to them.



*Mark Dreyfus MP with staff, and past and present students of Noble Park Primary School at the school's 100th Birthday*

Two school mates from the 1930's, **Lloyd Lancaster** and **Keith Wilson**, recognised each other at the celebration and reminisced about their time at Noble Park Primary School and what they have been up to since.

## **Bright Moon Buddhist Anniversary and TET Festival**

We are lucky to live in a community that is enriched by cultural diversity. I had the pleasure of attending the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Bright Moon Buddhist Society on 20 March 2011.

I also joined our Vietnamese community in celebrating the New Year at the TET Festival at Sandown Park.



*Mark Dreyfus MP with President of the Vietnamese Community in Australia (Vic Chapter)*



*Mark lights a firecracker as part of the Bright Moon Buddhist Society celebrations*



*Mark Dreyfus MP with guests at the Bright Moon Buddhist Society celebrations*

# Supporting you and your family

## Paid Parental Leave

Australia's first ever national Paid Parental Leave scheme is up and running. This means families can spend more time with their new babies, without the added financial pressure.



We all know how important the early months are in a new baby's life. The Paid Parental Leave Scheme gives babies the best start possible by supporting either mum or dad to be at home in those crucial early months.

For many new mums and dads, particularly the self-employed and those in part-time, casual, seasonal or contract work, this is the very first time they have had access to Paid Parental Leave, for up to 18 weeks at the national minimum wage.

## Budget Basics - easing the cost of living



This year's Federal Budget will assist us to deliver a surplus by 2012-13.

Here are some budget measures that will ease cost of living pressures:

### Mental Health

- ✓ \$2.2B invested over the next 5 years to reform the mental health system

### Health

- ✓ More hospital beds locally:
  - Frankston Hospital - 24 acute and short stay beds
  - Dandenong Hospital - new 24 bed Acute Assessment Unit
  - Monash Medical Centre - new Acute Assessment Unit
  - Casey Hospital - 30 sub acute beds

### Supporting Families

- ✓ Increasing Family Tax Benefit-A by up to \$4,200 per year
- ✓ Extending the Education Tax Refund to cover school uniforms

### Skills and Training

- ✓ 130,000 new training places over 4 years
- ✓ Creating 500,000 jobs in the next 2 years

### Education

- ✓ Investing \$200M to support students with disabilities
- ✓ Investing a further \$1.4B to meet the demand for growth in university enrolments

### Delivering for our Pensioners

- ✓ Delivering an improved pension work bonus
- ✓ We have increased fortnightly payments for veterans' income support recipients and people on aged, disability and carer pensions, meaning a \$128 boost for singles and a \$116 boost for couples on the maximum rate since September 2009

# Protecting our environment

## CSIRO - leading the world in climate change science research

The 150 scientists and staff at CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research in Aspendale research the impacts of climate change and predict changes in the atmospheric environment.

One important task of the team at CSIRO in Aspendale is to see how greenhouse gases have changed through the centuries and how these levels have increased in recent times.

One way of measuring these changes is for scientists to take a trip to Antarctica and drill down many metres to take an "ice core" sample (pictured). The ice has trapped air from many centuries ago which is tested and measured against greenhouse gas levels of today.



Ice core sample



Mark Dreyfus MP with atmospheric scientists at the CSIRO in Aspendale

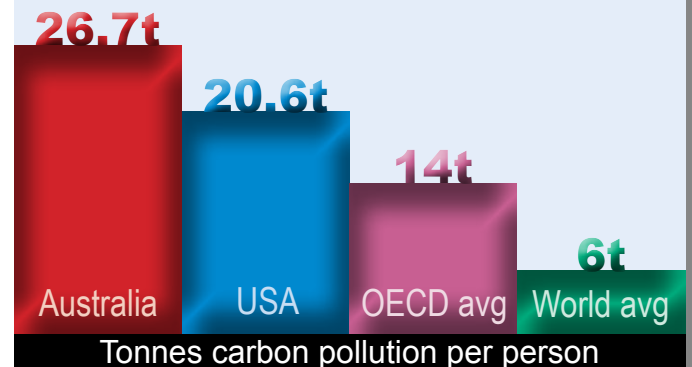
## Tackling Climate Change

We all know that we need to take action on climate change and reduce the impact we have on our environment. That's why the Government is taking action to introduce a price on carbon pollution.

- The Government's carbon price will apply to **less than 1,000** of the biggest polluters in our economy.
- A carbon price gives big polluters a reason to reduce their carbon pollution. **Businesses that produce less carbon pollution will be more profitable.**
- Every cent raised by the carbon price will go in **generous assistance to households** and businesses and to climate change programs.
- **Australia is not acting alone.** The rest of the world is taking action to reduce emissions, including Europe, China, India and the United States.
- Australia has to be part of the **clean energy future** and the most cost effective action to cut our pollution and transform the economy is a carbon price.

### Australia's carbon pollution in context

Australia has the **highest carbon pollution emissions per person** of any developed country, higher even than the USA, and is one of the top 20 polluting nations in the world (ranked 16)



## How I can help you

I am available to help you and your family with any problems you may encounter dealing with Federal Government departments and agencies, such as Medicare, Centrelink, citizenship, higher education or aged care.

### Mark Dreyfus QC MP Federal Member for Isaacs

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